

House Calendar No. 218

111TH CONGRESS
2^D SESSION

H. RES. 1401

[Report No. 111-543]

Expressing gratitude for the contributions that the air traffic controllers of the United States make to keep the traveling public safe and the airspace of the United States running efficiently, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MAY 26, 2010

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York (for herself and Mr. KING of New York) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure

JULY 15, 2010

Additional sponsors: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. SHULER, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. HARE, Ms. RICHARDSON, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. COURTNEY, Ms. CLARKE, Ms. MARKEY of Colorado, Ms. SUTTON, Mr. TEAGUE, Ms. PINGREE of Maine, Mr. CARNEY, Mr. LOBIONDO, Mr. WEINER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. WU, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. KLEIN of Florida, Mr. CAO, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. HALL of New York, Mr. NADLER of New York, Mr. MCMAHON, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. DEUTCH, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. WALZ, Mr. SIRES, Mr. ROONEY, Mr. CARNAHAN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. PERRIELLO, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SCHAUER, Mr. ENGEL, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. HODES, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SPEIER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MITCHELL, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK of Arizona, Mr. ROE of Tennessee, Mrs. HALVORSON, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. POE of Texas, Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia, Mr. GUTHRIE, Ms. GIFFORDS,

Mr. CHILDERS, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. ELLSWORTH, Mr. ALTMIRE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. DONNELLY of Indiana, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Ms. KOSMAS, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. STARK, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. WOLF, Mr. PASTOR of Arizona, Mr. CRITZ, Ms. SCHWARTZ, Mr. DENT, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. WITTMAN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PATRICK J. MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BOCCIERI, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. DOYLE, Ms. FALLIN, Mr. PETRI, Mr. COBLE, Mr. TIM MURPHY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHOCK, Mr. ARCURI, Mr. ROSS, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. LEE of New York, Mrs. DAHLKEMPER, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, and Mr. SESTAK

JULY 15, 2010

Reported with amendments, referred to the House Calendar, and ordered to be printed

[Strike the preamble and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[Strike out all after the resolving clause and insert the part printed in *italic*]

[For text of introduced resolution, see copy of resolution as introduced on May 26, 2010]

RESOLUTION

Expressing gratitude for the contributions that the air traffic controllers of the United States make to keep the traveling public safe and the airspace of the United States running efficiently, and for other purposes.

Whereas air traffic controllers dedicate themselves to the protection of the flying public;

Whereas air traffic controllers react to dangerous and complex situations on a daily basis, doing so in a calm and professional manner;

Whereas air traffic controllers work all day long and all year long, including holidays, to provide services to aircraft in their assigned airspaces;

Whereas, due to the highly stressful and demanding nature of the job and the total concentration required, air traffic controllers are required to take regular 30-minute breaks, work in shifts, and retire by the age of 56;

Whereas air traffic controllers perform courageous acts every day;

Whereas, on January 1, 2009, air traffic controller Kristin Danninger at the Madison, Wisconsin, Tower and Terminal Radar Approach Control (“TRACON”) facility directed a new pilot back on course and above minimum altitude who had been stuck in the clouds in a small aircraft with zero visibility, successfully using her knowledge of local geography to point out a highway that led the pilot to the appropriate runway;

Whereas, on March 29, 2009, air traffic controller Troy Decker at the Salt Lake Center facility guided a Piper Aztec aircraft with an engine fire to a safe landing in Butte, Montana, providing detailed weather reports for several possible landing options;

Whereas, on April 12, 2009, air traffic controllers Jessica Anaya, Lisa Grimm, Nathan Henkels, Dan Flavio, Brian Norton, and Carey Meadows at the Miami Center facility and the Fort Myers Tower and TRACON facility guided to safety a twin-engine King Air aircraft after the pilot died in-flight, assisting Doug White, an individual with limited private pilot experience in smaller aircraft, to locate the positions of controls and switches on the aircraft and to navigate the high-traffic area of southern Florida;

Whereas, on June 28, 2009, air traffic controller Ron Chappell at the Southern California TRACON facility issued a traffic advisory to a jet aircraft landing at Los Angeles after

viewing another target on his radar screen that was at an unknown altitude and approaching the jet, circumstances that bore a similarity to a 1986 mid-air collision over Cerritos, California;

Whereas, on July 5, 2009, air traffic controller Louis Ridley at the Potomac TRACON facility assisted a Velocity aircraft stuck above a cloud layer to navigate through perilous mountain terrain with limited fuel remaining and, while doing so, reassured the pilot, gave detailed flight and weather information, determined the best airport for a safe approach and landing, and even had his wife, Carolyn, greet the pilot after the pilot landed in Culpepper, Virginia;

Whereas, on October 9, 2009, air traffic controllers Kevin Plante and Christopher Presley in Portland, Maine, helped guide an aircraft that had become stuck in rapidly deteriorating weather conditions by employing, with daylight waning and the aircraft near mountainous terrain, a road map to direct the pilot to Portland using several highways, lakes, and towns as guides;

Whereas, on November 14, 2009, air traffic controller Jessica Hermsdorfer at the Kansas City Tower and TRACON facility calmly helped guide back to the airport an Airbus 319 aircraft that had hit multiple birds and experienced engine trouble, directing other aircraft out of the way and assisting the stricken flight to land safely;

Whereas, on December 7, 2009, air traffic controllers Natasha Hodge and Douglas Wynkoop at the Dallas TRACON facility worked as a team to assist a confused and disoriented pilot of an experimental aircraft, redirecting other aircraft in the area and suggesting an approach into Navy

Fort Worth for the pilot, which resulted in a successful landing;

Whereas, on December 20, 2009, air traffic controllers Todd Lamb at the Anchorage Center facility and Michael Evans at the Fairbanks Flight Service Station ensured a safe landing for a Cessna aircraft that was experiencing smoke in the cockpit, as Mr. Evans was able to assist the pilot in locating a narrow dirt trail which was the only safe landing spot in the area and Mr. Lamb helped a second aircraft locate the downed plane's position;

Whereas approximately 15,600 Federal air traffic controllers, in airport traffic control towers, terminal radar approach control facilities, and air route traffic control centers, guide planes through the airspace of the United States;

Whereas approximately an additional 1,250 civilian contract controllers and more than 9,000 military controllers also provide air traffic services;

Whereas, from fiscal year 2001 to fiscal year 2009, according to the Federal Aviation Administration ("FAA") there have been 94,600,000 successful flights of United States commercial aircraft safely carrying more than 6,340,000,000 passengers;

Whereas air traffic controllers provide separation services over the entire airspace of the United States and 24,600,000 square miles of international oceanic airspace;

Whereas, as of May 22, 2010, the FAA operated 315 air traffic control facilities and the Air Traffic Control System Command Center in the United States;

Whereas, in the past 5 years, the FAA has hired more than 7,500 air traffic controllers in order to meet continuously changing traffic volumes and workload; and

Whereas air traffic controllers are facing staffing challenges, with an aging workforce and a wave of retirements: Now, therefore, be it

1 *Resolved, That the House of Representatives—*

2 *(1) expresses gratitude for the contributions that*
3 *the air traffic controllers of the United States make*
4 *to keep the traveling public safe and the airspace of*
5 *the United States running efficiently;*

6 *(2) commends air traffic controllers for the calm*
7 *and professional manner in which they handle air*
8 *traffic, day and night, throughout the year;*

9 *(3) acknowledges the heroic actions, dedication,*
10 *and quick and skilled decisionmaking that air traffic*
11 *controllers employ to help avert many accidents and*
12 *tragedies; and*

13 *(4) encourages greater investment in the mod-*
14 *ernization of the air traffic control system of the*
15 *United States so that air traffic controllers have the*
16 *resources and technology needed to better carry out*
17 *their mission, both in the air and on the ground, as*
18 *air travel continues to grow.*

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